

Consolidated  
Edition  
Torrance Herald  
and Lomita News

# Torrance Herald

and LOMITA NEWS



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## MUNICIPAL BUS SYSTEM IS UNDER STUDY BY CHAMBER

### W. Rufus Page Outlines Details of Project to Link Surrounding Communities to Local Trading Center

One of the most ambitious projects to be undertaken by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce in recent years was outlined this week by W. Rufus Page, president of that civic organization. It is a municipal bus system, radiating out from the Torrance business and industrial section to the communities of Lomita, Key-stone, Waltham, Redondo, Moneta, Gardena and possibly Western City.

Page, Carl Hyde, executive secretary of the chamber, and members of the Transportation committee are assembling data on such a system for presentation to the directors of the chamber, March 16.

From C. of C. Funds

That such a municipal bus system, operating on a regular frequent schedule and charging but five cents, would be of great value to the city is seen in the progress of other Southern California municipalities where city-owned bus routes are in operation.

Torrance, because of its great area (the third largest incorporated district in the county) and its central location, stands to win the patronage of a huge block of the Harbor District population if a municipal transportation system can be started here.

Perhaps the outstanding feature of the project would be its creation out of Chamber of Commerce funds without calling on the voters of this city for a bond issue to inaugurate the system. Page believes this could be done and to that end, he and other executive officers of the chamber are investigating every aspect of the project before bringing it to the attention of the chamber's board of directors.

**Tentative Routes**  
According to the preliminary plans, four routes could be operated from the business district of the city. One would be along Arlington avenue, to Narbonne avenue and Lomita and possibly to the state highway, the Wilmington-Redondo boulevard. Another would go to Keystone and Avalon boulevard. A third would go out West-ern avenue to Riverside-Redondo boulevard and the fourth out Redondo boulevard to Redondo.

Because the system would be municipally-owned, it would not come under the jurisdiction of the State Railroad Commission in the matter of routes, Page declared this week.

"We would have to get the consent of the incorporated cities the buses passed through, such as Los Angeles, and the approval of the Los Angeles county supervisors in unincorporated area," the president of the chamber stated.

**Sees Great Good**  
"We would reach into a trading area of approximately 30,000 people within a four mile radius of Torrance," he continued. "This area is not served by such a system as we are studying. True, it is served by larger intra-city motor coaches, but these are mostly for long-distance fares. The city's bus service would not enter that field but would serve the housewives and families who want to do their shopping in Torrance or other communities along the buses' routes. It would also serve the working men who are employed in Torrance industries."

A five-cent fare and a 30-minute schedule would be ideal, Page believes. It would be economical and provide the fast service desired.

"We would expect to sustain a loss during the first, second and possibly third years of operation, but what of that? The good it would do in business for our merchants, in service to industries, both present and future, and in advertising for Torrance would outweigh a financial debit. After those first years, I am confident that the bus route would be on at least a self-sustaining and possibly paying basis."

**Center of Harbor District**  
"Other cities, notably Santa Monica, have municipal routes that are servicable to the city as well as profitable to the inhabitants of a great trading area. We can do the same here," Page declared.

The chamber's president called attention to the report issued recently by the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission in which it was stated that "the Harbor District will be called upon to furnish 75 per cent of the industrial land needed to support the ultimate population of Los Angeles County."

"And Torrance is located in just about the exact center of the Harbor District—that means we shall have to be of great assistance in providing for this population that is constantly increasing.

## TORRANCE IS RECEIVED IN WATER DIST.

### Mayor Dennis Appointed City's Representative on Directorate

Torrance is now an integral part of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, having received a copy of the certificate issued the directorate of the District by Frank C. Jordan, secretary of state.

The certificate, with the great seal of the State of California, occupying a prominent position, was received by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett and reported to the council Tuesday night.

On motion by Councilman G. A. R. Steiner, Mayor John Dennis was appointed this city's director on the Metropolitan Water District board of directors. The mayor will have the power to cast the three votes Torrance is entitled to by reason of its assessed valuation of more than \$4,000,000. With his appointment, Dennis adds another title to his "string" of honors. He is now Mayor-Judge-Director.

## Deseran Case Meets Second Postponement

Because Dr. Webb, autopsy surgeon, was unable to be present in Judge Dennis' court Tuesday morning, the Peter Deseran preliminary murder hearing was continued to Friday, March 13, at 10 a. m.

The two charges against the 61-year-old Keystone resident, that of the alleged murder of his wife, Victoria, and assault with intent to commit the murder of his daughter, Mrs. Mildred Miller, on the morning of February 10, will be aired in court at the same time, it was agreed by both sides. V. L. Ferguson, deputy district attorney, is prosecuting the case.

By consolidating the two cases against Deseran, much time can be saved at the hearing, according to Ferguson and Robert R. Stentz, attorney for the Keystone man. Meanwhile Deseran is being held in the county jail without bail. George Contreras, deputy sheriff, is assisting the district attorney on the case.

## Legion Assists Vets in Filing for Pay Loans

Only about 16 per cent of the members of Bert S. Crossland Post, No. 170, American Legion will take advantage of the Adjusted Compensation Loans authorized last week by Congress, according to Commander Earl Conner's estimate yesterday.

"I would say that 80 per cent of the applications for loans which have been filled out at my place of business, the First National Bank and at Sandy and Scotty's are from ex-service men who are not members of the Legion," he declared.

**Good Use for Money**  
The loans which are sought by Legion men and other veterans of the World War are to be put to good usage, Conner continued. He cited a few instances of how the ex-service men will use their loans. "One fellow I know is going to use his money for improvements on his house—in order to afford work for his buddies. Another told me he was going to 'clean up' his bills, notably a doctor's account. All of the men I have talked to are going to use the loans for good (Continued on 4-A)

## Proposed County Health Center To Be Located Near American Legion Hall



In the annual report of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, which is just off the press, the above architect's drawing is accompanied by the following description: "Torrance Health Center Building, plans for which are now being completed under the direction of the county architect, will be a low rambling type of structure, of decided Mexican architectural influence. The building will provide quarters for the various health center agencies, including Physiotherapy, Child Hygiene, Dental and Medical Clinics and business offices." The above illustration was furnished the Herald through the courtesy of J. M. Wood, deputy and chief clerk of the Budget and Report Division of the County Auditor's Office.

With the preparation of the preliminary county budget set for the latter part of this month, members of the Torrance city council and directors of the Chamber of Commerce are going to assure themselves that the funds for the proposed Torrance Health Center, pictured above, will be included in the list of county expenditures.

It has been reported that the county's investment in such an establishment in the wooded park between Carson street and Plaza del Amo will be about \$60,000. Both Supervisor Quinn and County Auditor Payne have assured the city that the building will be included in the final budget, which will be adopted this coming July.

**What Plans Include**  
According to the plans of the County Health Center, on file at the Chamber here, the front of the building, 136 feet long, will face Carson street. The north and south depth, facing the American Legion property line, will be 12 1/2 feet. The administrative wing, 38 by 65 feet, includes a general information office, business offices, supply rooms, nurses' supervisor's room, general nurses' rooms, medical director's office, sanitary office and laboratory, sanitation supervisor's office and rest rooms.

A large lobby, facing this group of rooms from a center corridor, is 20 by 33 feet in size. The main entrance, from Carson street, is into this lobby through an arcade-loggia. The south exposure of the lobby opens into a fenced terrace. The remaining portion of the structure contains quarters for the various examination and clinical rooms and laboratories.

An interesting part about the present plans is that the extreme east exposure of the main unit facing Carson street is so designed architecturally and physically that a subsequent building can be added—this to contain, it is reported, quarters for the county library and justice court. This addition will be connected to the main unit by an arcade walk, similar in construction to the connections between the Torrance High school buildings.

An intersection light will be installed at El Prado and Western avenue and another on 182nd street between Arlington and Cypress avenues.

## Where to Make Veterans' Loan Applications in Torrance

All veterans who desire to make applications for loans on Adjusted Compensation Certificates may do so in Torrance, through the courtesy of the Bert S. Crossland Post, No. 170, American Legion, at the following places:

- 1.—At the First National Bank, corner of Marcellina and Sartori avenues, where George B. Worcester will assist veterans to fill out the necessary forms during banking hours, from 10 a. m. to 3 p. m.
- 2.—After banking hours, at Sandy and Scotty's Men's Store, 1225 Sartori avenue, where James H. Scott, service officer of the local post, will assist in filling out the forms.

Veterans who have received loans on their Adjusted Compensation Certificates at any time in the past, should bring their pink slips. Ex-Service men who have not received any loans should bring their certificates.

## COUNCIL HEARING NEW OFFER BY WATER COMPANY TODAY

### Meets With Bondholders' Attorney This Afternoon; City's Offer to Buy Plant for \$92,500 Is Rejected

A decision is expected to be reached late this afternoon as to whether or not the city will purchase the plant of the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company—or in event that the price of the equipment is still too high—institute legal proceedings at once to clarify the \$400,000 bond issue overwhelmingly voted by the citizens September 25, 1920.

The city council, sitting as a committee of the whole, the city attorney and city engineer are meeting this afternoon with Col. J. W. Sutphen, attorney for the bondholders of the local water company, at the city hall to hear the latest proposal to sell by the bondholders.

**Reject City's Offer**  
Sutphen reported to the council Tuesday night that his clients had rejected the city's offer to purchase the plant for \$92,500 cash.

Then he countered with another proposal to reveal certain data in connection with possible "concessions" by the bondholders to a special committee, organized as an arbitration board, who would, in turn, submit its findings to the city council. In that manner, Sutphen explained, the council would act on the matter entirely as a judicial body.

This proposal was met with the council's decision to review the bondholders' latest offer itself, without the formality of such an arbitration board. The original proposal, which was the legal owner of the right-of-way and that the reversionary clause in the deed to the Pacific Electric was intact.

## Defense Fund of \$200 Raised for Mrs. Erickson in Lomita

### Two Lomita Women Charged with Poison-Murder to Have Preliminary Hearing in Los Angeles Tomorrow, Friday, Morning at 10 o'Clock

An incomplete check of petitions being circulated in Lomita for the defense of Mrs. Anna Erickson, charged with Mrs. Esther Carlson with the alleged poison-murder of August Lindstrom, retired lumberman, showed 131 signatures with \$200 paid in today. The Royal Neighbors voted to contribute \$50 to the fund last night.

It is reported that only persons who have known Mrs. Erickson for some time and who are thoroughly convinced of her innocence of the asserted crime are being asked to sign. A large number of Lomita people have expressed their intention of attending the hearing of the two women in a Los Angeles municipal court tomorrow, Friday, morning at 10 o'clock.

**Druggist Enters Case**  
Meanwhile, deputy sheriffs and Deputy District Attorney George Stahlman have gone on collecting data on the case which they will submit as evidence that a crime was committed by the two well-known Lomita women—the result of which, they claim, caused the death of Lindstrom on February 10.

## TORRANCE MUST AID CRAIL IN GETTING FED. BUILDING FUND

### Congressman Wires Herald Details of \$85,000 Grant to City; Money Not Available Before July, 1932

Indicating that a vigorous campaign to present the needs of new quarters at once by the local postoffice will do much to speed the construction of a Federal building here, Congressman Joe Crail, in a telegram to the Herald yesterday, stated, in effect, that the \$85,000 building fund will be made available on the showing made by Torrance.

## Gas Pump Makes Good in Big Way!

Evidently that gasoline pump between the police and fire stations is determined to wipe out the stigma cast upon it last month when it was discovered to be pumping more than the gallonage it was supposed to—because—

Councilman R. R. Smith reported at council meeting this week that the city had actually gained five gallons more than it had pumped during the month of February! Smith declared that the new system of requisition blanks was eliminating the shortage that the city has been experiencing in the past. He also declared that he would investigate why the fire department inspection tours used 37 gallons of gasoline during February, claiming that that was about 30 gallons too much.

## North Lomita Annexation Is Delayed Here

Appearing as attorney for property owners in the northern end of Lomita, Judge C. T. Rippey, of this city, made a strong plea to the city council Tuesday night that the petition for annexation to Torrance, filed with the council May 14, 1929, be acted upon and a special election called at once.

Rippey told the council that this petition can be acted upon now, although a period of about 20 months has elapsed since it was filed, as the city still retains jurisdiction in the matter. He said that the county counsel, who is now reviewing the matter, will make reply to the city clerk in the near future as to the legality of the petition.

After a long discussion, in which members of the council and citizens of Lomita in the audience took part, it was decided to hold the matter over until the next regular meeting in order that the members of the council who were not acquainted with the situation, Carlton B. Bell and R. R. Smith, might study the question. In the meantime, the county counsel's decision is expected.

**560 Acres in Area**  
The territory included in the annexation petition includes approximately 560 acres and has about 125 population, Rippey said. The original petition was signed by 87 property owners, he reported.

At one time during the discussion, Councilman G. A. R. Steiner made a motion to instruct the city attorney to prepare the necessary papers to call an election, but this was not seconded. Rippey and the Lomita residents present in the audience declared that the Kettler ranch, which has long been the bone of contention as to whether or not the Kettlers were in favor of annexing to Torrance, was included in the territory proposed to be added to Torrance.

The owners of the 160-acre ranch were said to be in favor of the annexation, although at one time they refused to sign the petition.

## Library Is Open Every Day Now

### Part Time Schedule Is Abandoned

Beginning today, March 5, the Torrance Branch of the Los Angeles County Free Library will be open every week day except Saturday from 1 to 9 p. m.

Crail stated that the allocation of Torrance of \$85,000 is definite and certain "but before the money is available, the sum must be fully appropriated. I hope the next session of Congress can be persuaded to appropriate for Torrance but the money will not be available before July next year."

**Crail's Report Given**  
The Congressman's telegram was in answer to a questionnaire addressed to him late last week by the Herald in an effort to learn many of the points of interest connected with the construction of the federal building here.

The complete message from Crail is as follows:

"Torrance Herald:  
"Torrance, California.  
"Congress formally authorized a lump sum for the appropriation of \$100,000 for Federal buildings and directed the Inter-Departmental Committee to allocate the same to different cities. The allocation to Torrance of \$85,000 is definite and certain but before the money is available the sum must be duly appropriated. The Treasury Department, which carries on the building work for the government, has made work under way that it can do before July first, 1932; all of which was undertaken before the Torrance allocation was made. "How soon the money is available will depend upon the needs of Torrance and the showing which it makes to the Inter-Departmental Committee, whose address is 'Care of Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.'"

**No Other Offices**  
"I hope the next session of Congress can be persuaded to appropriate for Torrance but the money will not be available before July next year."

"The Inter-Departmental Committee will decide the location of the Federal building in Torrance) but not until the money is available for expenditure. It is not contemplated that other governmental offices or bureaus will be housed in the new building.

"I shall endeavor to procure an order for the employment of local architects and a style of architecture suitable to Torrance and pleasing to its citizens.

"Communications to the Inter-Departmental Committee will be very helpful. Yours sincerely (Signed) J. Crail"

**Should Write Committee**  
From the contents of the Congressman's wire to this newspaper, it can be seen that there is but little chance that the postoffice will move from its present location on Marcellina avenue into the new building at the expiration of the lease this coming December.

It can also be noted that citizens and civic and social organizations interested in the construction of the government building here should take advantage of Crail's implied request for co-operation in pushing through the local appropriation at the earliest possible time.

**Site Awaits Money**  
The Congressman's failure to answer the Herald's question of "When will the site be made public?" is explained in the contents of his telegram, as this question cannot be answered until the money is appropriated.

In the interest of civic improvement, the Herald urges all those concerned in the construction of the Torrance Federal building to write the Inter-Departmental Committee at Washington, care of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, and urge that the \$85,000 allocation to this city be made as soon as Congress formally approves the expenditure at its next session. The cramped quarters of the postoffice's present location should be cited as just cause for early action.

**TREE CUTTING OKED**  
The consent of the Chancellor-Carfield Midway Oil company was given the city for the cutting of trees east of Cedar avenue on their property in the vicinity of the proposed Sepulveda boulevard.

Building permits for February totaled \$12,230, according to records at the city engineer's office. The total for the first two months of this year is \$26,130, which is only slightly below normal.